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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) An inventory application method, comprising the steps:

specifying whether a search is for orders or materials;

if the search is for orders,

- i) inputting materials available and capturing a complete set of attributes for the materials, and
- ii) looking for feasible matches of the materials against orders;

if the search is for materials,

- i) specifying orders and capturing attributes for routing steps of the orders, and
- ii) looking for feasible matches of orders against materials;

compiling a list of feasible matches;

evaluating each match;

ranking the matches; and

using said rankings to assign materials to orders.

2. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of inputting values for a set of parameters, and wherein:

the step of looking for feasible matches of the materials against orders includes the step of looking for feasible matches of the materials against orders on the basis of said input values; and